

(2) Includes a program or facility that is owned or operated by this State or any of its political subdivisions.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an alcohol abuse and drug abuse treatment program shall be certified by the Department before program services may be provided in this State.

(c) This section does not apply to:

(1) A health professional licensed under the Health Occupations Article who is treating patients within the scope of the professional's practice and who does not advertise the practice as an alcohol abuse or drug abuse program;

(2) Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, transitional housing programs, or other similar organizations, if the organization holds meetings or provides support services to help individuals who show the effects of drug abuse or alcohol abuse; or

(3) An employees' assistance program of a business entity.

(d) Unless requested, the certification requirements of this section do not apply to [the following facilities:

(1) A] A hospital as defined in § 19-301 of this article accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals with a separately accredited alcohol and drug abuse program[; and

(2) An alcohol abuse and drug abuse treatment program accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals].

(e) An intermediate care facility, alcoholic (type C or D), shall be certified as an intermediate care alcohol abuse and drug abuse treatment facility.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2001.

May 17, 2001

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 473 - Health Maintenance Organizations - Patient Access to Choice of Provider.

House Bill 473 authorizes nurse practitioners to serve as primary care providers for health maintenance organizations (HMO) but does not require an HMO to include nurse practitioners on the provider panel as primary care providers. House Bill 473 also provides that the number of nurse practitioners on the provider panel of an HMO